Dr. Sridhar Sivasubbu

Dr. Yogendra Singh

Shri Hemant Kulkarni

Shri P. Bansal

(c) CSIR/IGIB entered into the agreement with "M/s. Chaterjee Management Services" (CMS) for the creation and operation of TCGA on 26th April, 2003. However CMS requested to assign all of their rights under this agreement to M/s Institute of Molecular Medicine, a Section 25 company, not-for-profit research foundation, another initiative of Chaterjee Group on 28th July, 2004, which was agreed to and a fresh agreement with the same terms and conditions was signed between CSIR/IGIB and IMM on 28th July, 2004.

It may be mentioned that the text of agreement include commercial and operational strategies of TCGA and their disclosure may harm commercial competitiveness of TCGA, which may adversely affect future public-private partnerships. Therefore, the text of the agreement cannot be placed.

Expenditure of CSIR

862. SHRI A.VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the CAG has reported unfruitful expenditure of Rs. 21.29 lakh by CSIR's National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology, formerly Regional Research Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala because it purchased but failed to install a Liquid Nitrogen Plant for more than five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the action taken to make the plant functional, as on date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Initially the suppliers and the Indian agent had failed to install the Equipment in spite of best efforts put in by National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST). The same was commissioned successfully by a third party in October, 2005. However, currently the plant is shutdown for maintenance as it was producing liquid nitrogen contaminated with oxygen and moisture due to catalyst contamination.

(c) Does not arise.

Pending proposals of Andhra Pradesh

863. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details and the status of the proposals of Andhra Pradesh Government pending with the Ministry indicating the reasons for delay in giving clearance to each of those proposals, the estimated cost involved in each of these proposals;

(b) by when all these proposals are likely to be cleared; and

(c) the details of the schemes/projects being implemented/proposed to be implemented in State by the Ministry during the current year and the next year?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) There is no proposal of Andhra Pradesh Government pending with the Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry is providing support to scientific research proposals received from research and development institutions, universities, voluntary organisations, State science and technology councils in areas of science popularization, entrepreneurship development, societal activities, natural resource data management, biotechnology, etc., in various States. In Andhra Pradesh, Ministry of Science and Technology has provided financial support to implement projects, such as establishing biotechnology incubator, commercial formulation of potential bio-pesticides for groundnut, millet improvement, establishment of water purification and plasma pyrolysis waste disposal unit, setting up of village information system, establishment of district data centres, etc., for implementation in various institutions.

Separate time-zone for NER

864. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to work out a separate time-zone to save power in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India's width, from Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh, does make a case for having two time zones within the country; and

(d) if so, the action plan of Government to work thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir, The requirement for two time zones for the country was considered by a Committee constituted by the Department of Science and Technology. The Committee considered that given the longitudinal difference between the extreme regions in the country, technically it is possible to have two time zones. But these will be 5 hours and 6 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) respectively, in place of the present uniform IST, which is 5½ hours ahead of GMT. This will be in accordance with international norms. However, it was noted that this will enable savings in daylight hours only by half an hour for the eastern States, whereas there will be a corresponding loss of half an hour in the Central and the Western States. The Committee observed that this does not provide any major advantage, yet on the other hand, pose several difficulties in terms of differential timings for airlines, Railways, radio and TV, STD services etc. A more prudent and effective solution